

HOUSE RESOLUTION 295

By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Reverend James Rual Chalk on the celebration of his 100th birthday and third trip down the matrimonial aisle.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2006, the Reverend James Rual Chalk celebrated his 100th birthday, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2006, Rev. Chalk and longtime friend, Evelyn Johnson, were joined in holy matrimony in the presence of more than one hundred family members and friends at the House of Mercy Church in Morris Chapel; as husband and wife, they will now face the world together as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the happy couple tied the knot following a long friendship that saw them through the passing of the bride's first husband in 1999, and the groom's second wife in 2005; and

WHEREAS, by way of explaining this joyous union, the Rev. Chalk quoted from his favorite book of the Bible, Genesis 2:18, which states, "It is not good for man to be alone."; the newlyweds are proud of their new blended family, which includes four children, ten grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, when friends asked why she would want to marry someone so old, the 68-year-old bride declared that Rev. Chalk's age is a blessing rather than a concern, because "they don't make them like that any more at this age"; and

WHEREAS, a still-active and productive centenarian, Rev. Chalk is a highly respected community and business leader in his roles as both pastor and building contractor; he has managed the construction of eighty-five homes in Morris Chapel over the years, and still owns several rental properties; he also helped to build churches in Sardis, Stringtown, Morris Chapel, and Lexington; and

WHEREAS, Rev. and Mrs. Chalk are a testament to the fact that love is timeless, ageless, and can strike unpredictably at any time; that it is possible to be lucky in both life and love, and that age is merely a state of mind; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Chalks' remind us of the intrinsic value of continuity and commitment in this ever-changing world; their longtime relationship has grown and prospered through many years, and stands as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this Legislative Body to honor the Reverend Chalk and his new wife, Evelyn, as they celebrate their love for one another and embark upon life's journey as one; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate the Reverend James Rual Chalk on the celebration of his 100th birthday as well as his recent nuptials, and extend to him our best wishes to Rev. and Mrs. Chalk for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.